Concordia
UNIVERSITY

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF DOWNTOWN LIBRARY COMPLEX ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1992

The long wait is over. After more than 20 years of planning and lobbying, Concordia University is set to open a spanking new downtown library complex. The official opening is scheduled for September 30, 1992, when the new building's name will also be revealed.

Together with the $8.9 million expansion and renovation of the Loyola Campus' Georges P. Vanier Library, completed in December 1989, the new facility will provide Concordia students and faculty, as well as the public, with a modern and accessible library service.

The $65 million downtown project contains study space for graduate and undergraduate students, seminar rooms, conference rooms, faculty offices, and all of the library facilities currently housed on 11 floors in four widely scattered downtown locations.

The new downtown building is 10 storeys at its highest point (along Mackay Street), with descending heights along de Maisonneuve Boulevard, Bishop Street, and the laneway at the southern end of the site. The complex contains two underground parking levels, and will be connected to Concordia's Henry F. Hall Building by a passageway under de Maisonneuve Boulevard. The east side of the building, on Bishop Street, incorporates the front section of the former Royal George Apartments, including that structure's elegant, 80-year old glazed terra-cotta façade.

The ground floor of the complex features a spacious, naturally lit, 24-foot wide interior community space known as Place Concordia, which is enclosed by a six-storey atrium. It contains an art gallery, a bookstore, a student services area, a restaurant, a computer store, and a 200-seat cinema. The entire project was designed by the Montréal-based architectural consortium of Werleman & Guy / Blouin & Associés.

Funding for the building was provided through two principal sources. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni joined with corporations, foundations and friends during Concordia's first Capital Campaign to donate $12.2 million towards its cost. The Québec government provided the balance.

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INFORMATION